

April 16, 2003

Federal Communications Commission

RE: Proceeding 98-229, Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association's Petition for Forbearance from Commercial Mobile Radio Services Number Portability

With respect to the above proceeding, I take issue with the CTIA position that number portability is not necessary to the public interest.

Number portability will first and foremost simplify the process a consumer must go through when deciding on changing cellular carriers. This is very useful, and appropriate, to increase competition within the industry. Today, I personally have decided against changing carriers specifically because of the complications involved in having to communicate a new cellular phone number to the myriad of personal and business acquaintances I deal with on a regular basis. Even though I could gain the benefit of additional features at a lower cost with other carriers.

I feel held hostage by the success of the cellular industry, as well as my usage of a cellular phone, to the point that today I use my cellular phone more than my land line, simply because I always have my cellular phone available, regardless of my location.

It will, contrary to the CTIA's position, actually open up new markets for products that the CTIA could not otherwise take advantage of, and increase individual dependence on cellular phones when people realize that they can acquire a single permanent number that they can always be contacted with.

Bottom line: Number portability will increase competition for new services and lower costs to consumers.

Yours truly,

Jeffrey Schnabel
8400 Burkwood Cove
Austin, Texas 78735
512-329-6465 (Landline)